



Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives

Dennis Mahoney, Co-Chair Marion McGarry, Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center,
888 Washington Boulevard

The Parks & Recreation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chair Mahoney and Committee Member Reps. Aquila, de la Cruz, Matherne, Saftic, and Stella. Absent or excused were Co-Chair McGarry and Committee Member Reps. Giordano and Pratt. Also present were Reps. Adams and Sherwood; Chris Dellaselva, Law Dept.; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Erin McKenna, Land Use Bureau; Kevin Murray, Parks/Facilities Manager; Laurie Albano, Recreation Superintendent; Robert Tyska, Golf Commission; Mike Evans and Danielle Jordine, Full Court Peace; and one member of the public.

Co-Chair Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. PR30.029	RESOLUTION; Accepting a Gift to Rehabilitate the Basketball Courts at Henry Street. 08/30/19 – Submitted by Director McGrath	Approved 6-0-0

Mr. Evans explained what Full Court Peace is, and there was discussion on this item.

- Full Court Peace (FCP) is a not-for-profit organization that uses basketball as a way to strengthen and unite communities.
- FCP began in Northern Ireland, and is currently being run successfully in other countries and in the U.S.
- Budgeting for the project was put together by FCP with assistance from the City. If the project goes over budget, FCP will cover the overage.
- Everyone will have access to the courts, and the courts will be used for both pickup games and more formal games.
- Right now the courts are first come, first served. A reservation process with a master calendar will need to be implemented for formal games once the upgrade is complete.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Mahoney, Aquila, de la Cruz, Matherne, Saftic and Stella in favor).

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:00:12

- ²2. [PR30.031](#) APPROVAL; Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services for Phase 1 Final Design for John Boccuzzi Park. **Approved 6-0-0**
09/03/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
09/12/19 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-0

Ms. McKenna explained the key points of Phase 1:

- A portion of the parking lot will be moved upland due to frequent flooding.
- The entrance will be re-organized directly across from Congress Street to improve safety and traffic flow, and will include a traffic circle.
- There will be a protected dune habitat created, which SoundWaters will maintain.
- The public will have access to the waterfront.
- There will be utility connections made for the future phases.

Ms. McKenna and the Committee discussed the item:

- There was extensive public outreach to establish the plan.
- The Parks & Recreation Commission has approved it.
- The City has successfully worked with Stantec numerous times.
- There is no time limit for completion in the contract; it will most likely be ready to bid by the summer of 2020.
- The contract includes coastal permitting and contract administration.
- The City has worked closely with the SoundWaters architects for this plan.
- SoundWaters construction will be going on at same time. Everyone needs to be cognizant of two groups with separate scopes working at the same time, making sure each group knows what is expected.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Mahoney, Aquila, de la Cruz, Matherne, Saftic and Stella in favor).

- ³3. [PR30.023](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Banning Smoking in City-Owned Beaches, Parks & Other Recreational Locations. **Held 6-0-0**
05/08/19 – Submitted by Reps. Stella and Pratt
05/13/19 – Moved to Pending
06/18/19 – Held in Committee 7-0-0
07/08/19 – Moved to Pending

There was discussion on this item.

- The ability to enforce a smoking ban is a key issue.
- Should an ordinance be passed if it cannot be effectively enforced?
- Signage could be put in certain areas where there are many children, such as playgrounds, pavilions, and restaurant areas.
- People go to parks and beaches to have a healthy outdoor atmosphere, and should not have to breathe in smoke.
- Lifeguards cannot be expected to enforce a smoking ban at beaches.
- Signage would probably help to deter at least some smoking in parks.

² Video Time Stamp: 00:08:04

³ Video Time Stamp: 00:25:56

- The parks are littered with cigarette and cigar butts, boxes and wrappers.
- Funding smoking education might be more effective than a ban.
- An ordinance should be a complete ban on all smoking, including vaping and marijuana, as many people have medical cards for marijuana and CBD.

Mr. Tyska explained that a smoking ban on golf courses has unique challenges.

- Many golfers are non-residents and have a choice of where to golf.
- Cigar smoking is popular with many golfers while playing.
- The number of rounds purchased is down, and the numbers could decrease even more with a smoking ban.
- Golf course restaurant owners pay rent, but their customers would not be able to smoke outside as with the other restaurants in Stamford.
- City union employees on golf courses would not be able to have a smoke break like other City union employees are allowed elsewhere.
- He is not aware of any other golf courses in the area that have an outside smoking ban.

The Committee decided there needs to be more discussion to determine if a smoking ban is reasonable to achieve. Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety & Health will be invited to the next meeting. The Committee would like to hear from the Parks & Recreation Commission at the next meeting.

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Mahoney, Aquila, de la Cruz, Matherne, Saftic and Stella in favor).

Co-Chair Mahoney adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Mahoney, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).